

Norfolk Record Office Information Leaflet 64

Grammar and Independent Schools in Norfolk

1 Grammar Schools

After the Reformation, many cathedral and monastic schools were refounded as grammar schools, while other grammar schools in Norfolk were established by the local gentry. By the 1600s, several boarding and day grammar schools had been set up in the county. School endowments often enabled them to provide free or partially free education.

At first most grammar schools focused on teaching classical subjects, as required by their school statutes and endowments. However, during the nineteenth century, many began to teach new subjects, such as science. This culminated in the Grammar Schools Act, 1840, which allowed the schools to teach subjects not specified in their founding statute.

The Norfolk Record Office (NRO) holds some records relating to grammar schools. However, the majority of these schools retain their own admissions and other pupil records, for access to which you should apply directly to the school.

2 Independent Schools

Many independent schools in Norfolk began as grammar schools, particularly those with boarding pupils. They were often called public schools, since they attracted pupils from beyond the local area. The Public Schools Act, 1868, stated that these schools had to have a constitution and set out regulations for appointing school governors. Although there are records of a few independent schools in Norfolk and Norwich held at the NRO, the majority retain their own records, for access to which you should apply directly to the school.

3 Great Yarmouth Grammar School

Great Yarmouth Grammar School was founded in 1551 and occupied part of the site of St Mary's Hospital on the east side of the Market Place. The school was based in temporary buildings on Nelson Road until it moved to its permanent site on Trafalgar road, in 1872, where it was opened on 6 June by HRH Edward, Prince of Wales, later King Edward VII. The Great Yarmouth High School became coeducational in 1970 and a Technology College in 1997. For a history of the school, see J. B. Whitehead, *A History of the Great Yarmouth Grammar School, 1551-1951* (Great Yarmouth, 1951). There is a copy with the records of Great Yarmouth High School, reference D/ED 9/66, 596X7. There is also a copy of the School's anniversary order of service, *Celebrating 450 Years in the Life of Great Yarmouth High School* (2001) at the front of the D/ED list in the searchroom.

For records of Great Yarmouth Grammar School, and of the Grammar School foundation, held at the NRO, see lists D/ED 9 and Y/ED 163-268. These lists are available in the searchroom and *via* our online catalogue, NROCAT, on our website at <<http://archives.norfolk.gov.uk>>. In particular, there is a series of admission registers, 1863-1959, reference D/ED 9/1-10.

For this school, the Norfolk Record Office does hold pupils files, including reports, records cards and references, 1948-1987, see D/ED 494/1-86 and D/ED 495/1-13. However, please note that these files contain personal and sensitive information and they are usually closed to general public access for seventy-five years.

4 Gresham's School, Holt

A grammar school was founded in Holt by Sir Thomas Gresham in 1554 and it is now an independent, coeducational boarding school. Gresham's has an archive and maintains its own records, for access to which you should apply directly to the school. Their address is at the end of this leaflet.

For histories of Gresham's, see C.L.S. Linnell, *Gresham's School History and Register*, 1555-1954 (Holt, 1955) and S. Benson, *I Will Plant Me a Tree: an illustrated history of Gresham's School* (London, 2002) which are available through the Norfolk Library Service.

5 King's Lynn Grammar School

The King's Lynn Grammar School is believed to have originated from a deed of gift of land in Gaywood, made in 1543, by Thomas Thorysby to the Mayor and burgesses. The gift was established to fund the appointment of a priest, as Master of the Charnel at St Margaret's, to teach grammar and song to six boys.

For deeds and papers relating to the King's Lynn Grammar School and related charities, 1408-1921, see list KL/C/58/1-45. Please note that these records are held at the King's Lynn Borough Archives and not at the Norfolk Record Office. For more information about consulting records at the King's Lynn Borough Archives, please see our free information leaflet no. 34, *Consulting the King's Lynn Borough Archives*, available by contacting the NRO or on our website at <<http://archives.norfolk.gov.uk>>. The King's Lynn Borough Archives does not hold records of pupils or admissions, for which you should contact King Edward VII High School direct. Their address is at the end of this leaflet.

For a history of the King's Lynn Grammar School, see M. Walker, *King Edward VII School: a Centenary Celebration* (Brighton, 2005). A copy is available through the Norfolk Library Service. There is also A. Avis, *A Reminiscence of King Edward VII Grammar School, Kings Lynn* (privately published, 1991) available on the searchroom shelves.

6 King Edward VI's Grammar School, Norwich

The Norwich School was established by a charter of King Edward VI in 1547 and shortly afterwards moved to its present location in the Cathedral Close.

The Norfolk Record Office holds some administrative papers of the King Edward VI Charity Foundation, but we do not hold any records of pupils. For a collection level description of these records, please see list MC 2668. Please also note that one week's notice, or longer for complicated enquiries, is usually required for access to uncatalogued records. The Norwich School still retain any surviving records of admissions, for which you should contact them direct. Their address is at the end of this leaflet.

In 1862, the King Edward VI School established a separate commercial school, later known as the King Edward VI Middle School, in St George's Street. Names of pupils admitted to this school and the grammar school are given in the governors' minutes, reference ACC 2001/273. For the grammar school, names of pupils are given from 1858 to 1876 and for the commercial school from 1862 to 1880. Thereafter, names of individual pupils admitted are not given in the minutes but, from 1911 to 1946, copies of Headmaster's reports to the governors are included.

There is a published history of the school by R. Harries, P. Cattermole and P. Mackintosh, *A History of Norwich School, King Edward VI's Grammar School at Norwich* (Norwich, 1991). There is also a history of the school by H.W. Saunders, *A History of the Norwich Grammar School* (Norwich, 1932). Copies are available on the searchroom shelves.

7 Norwich High School For Girls

The Norwich High School for Girls was founded in 1875 and is one of twenty-nine schools of the Girls' Day School Trust, which educates girls aged three to eighteen years. The School maintains its own records, for access to which you should apply directly to the school. Their address is at the end of this leaflet.

For a history of the school see A. Brodie, *Memories, Milestones and Miscellanies: 125 Years of Norwich High School for Girls* (Norwich High School for Girls, (Norwich, c. 2000) and the Girls' Public Day School Trust, *Norwich High School, 1875-1950* (Norwich, 1950). Copies are available on the seachroom shelves.

8 Thetford Grammar School

There was a monastic school in Thetford by the fourteenth century. At the Reformation Sir Richard Fulmerston left £160 and property in his will, proved in 1567, for the provision of a free school for thirty boys. Land in Holy Trinity churchyard and the former Blackfriars' church was allocated for the school. In 1610, the refoundation was confirmed when Fulmerston's will was ratified by a private Act of Parliament, which also made the Thetford Corporation trustees

in perpetuity of the school. Former pupils of the grammar school include Roger North, 1651-1734, lawyer, writer and politician and Thomas Paine, radical author, 1737-1809.

In 1888 the Thetford Girls' Grammar School was built with money left by Sir Joseph Williamson, Secretary of State to Charles II and a former MP for Thetford. In 1944, the schools obtained Voluntary Controlled Status, and from 1975, they formed a single coeducational establishment. The school reverted to independent status in 1981. For further information on the history of Thetford Grammar School see A. Crosby, *A History of Thetford* (Chichester, 1986).

Thetford Grammar School maintains its own records, for which you should contact them direct. Their address is given at the end of this leaflet. However, there are some records, relating to the foundation of Thetford Grammar School and Fulmerston's charitable lands in the Thetford Borough archive, held at the NRO. Please note that the NRO does not hold any records of individual pupils:

- For a petition concerning Fulmerston's charitable bequests, 1608, see T/C1/6.
- For seventeenth-century copies of deeds and documents concerning Fulmerston's estates, see T/C 1/10.
- For an eighteenth-century copy of the founding Act of the grammar school, see T/C 1/12.
- TC 1/14 includes a copy of part of Sir Richard Fulmerston's will, late eighteenth century, and T/NS/1-16 includes a probate copy of his will, January 1567/8.
- Sir Richard Fulmerston's will was proved at the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, 12 November 1567. The registered copy of his will is held at The National Archives, Kew, Richmond, and a copy is available, for a charge, online through their website at <www.nationalarchives.gov.uk>.
- For proceedings of a committee to consider the school's regulations, 1818, see T/MC 2/1 and for draft Charity Commission schemes, c. 1874 and 1905, see T/MC 2/2-3.
- For a photograph of staff and pupils of Thetford Grammar School, 1937, see MC 2621/1.
- For photographs, magazines and other records relating to Thetford Girls' Grammar School, 1903-1995, see ACC 2008/270.

9 The Paston Grammar School, North Walsham

A free grammar school, founded by Sir William Paston, opened at North Walsham in 1605. Although its last Paston family connexion died out following the Civil War, the school continued to grow and, in 1765, a new schoolhouse was built. Horatio Nelson and his brother William were admitted to the school as pupils in 1769. For a history of the Paston School, see C.R. Forder, *A History of the Paston Grammar School* (North Walsham, 1934). A copy is available on the searchroom shelves.

The school is now part of a sixth form college for the local area, formed by its merger with North Walsham High School for Girls in 1984. Paston College maintains its own records, for which you should contact them direct. Their address is at the end of this leaflet. There are some records relating to the Paston Grammar School at the NRO, but we do not hold records of individual pupils:

- For records of the Paston Grammar School, see MC 20/1-47. These include governors' order books and minutes, 1606-1975 (MC 20/1-5), title deeds and related documents, 1606-1902 (MC 20/5-12), and treasurers' accounts, 1746-1908 (MC 20/13-14).
- For records of the Paston Grammar School and North Walsham High School, see MC 8 (listed as WD 1-132). These include governors' minutes, 1873-1936 (WD 1-3), deeds relating to the school, including copies of the deed of grant by Sir William Paston to establish the school, 1606 (WD 4) and various accounts, including school fees, seventeenth to twentieth centuries (WD 19-32). There are also governors' minutes, 1920-1965, for North Walsham High School for Girls (WD 44-45).
- For Paston School cash accounts, 1909-1917, fee accounts, 1911-1922 and 1933-1939, and fee receipt accounts, 1916-1925, see ACC 19/1/1979.
- For a drawing of the Paston School, 1781, by H. Repton, see FOS 437/1.
- For correspondence concerning the re-endowment scheme of the Paston School, 1948, see MC 201/53, 666X7.

10 Grammar Schools Outside Norfolk

The NRO also holds a few documents relating to grammar schools outside Norfolk:

- For articles of King Edward VI's school, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, approved by the bishop of Norwich, 1538, see DN/MS C 1/13.

- For Letters Patent: Royal Grant of a Grammar School to be called the Free Grammar School of Sir Nicholas Bacon, at Redgrave Hall, Suffolk, 1564, see NRS 21141, 45A1.

11 Other Information Leaflets

Other information leaflets, produced by the Norfolk Record Office, which may be useful:

- Leaflet 32 *Schools in Great Yarmouth*
- Leaflet 55 *Guidance on the Preservation and Care of School Records*
- Leaflet 62 *Education in Norfolk: A Brief Historical Outline*
- Leaflet 63 *A Guide to School Records*
- Leaflet 64 *The Burston Strike School*
- Leaflet 66 *Exam Results and Pupil Files*

12 Bibliography and Further Reading

A. Avis, *A Reminiscence of King Edward VII Grammar School, King's Lynn* (privately published, no place, 1991).

A. Avis, *Supplement to A Reminiscence of King Edward VII Grammar School, King's Lynn* (privately published, no place, 1993).

S. Benson, *I Will Plant Me a Tree: an illustrated History of Gresham's School* (London, 2002).

A. Brodie, *Memories, Milestones and Miscellanies: 125 Years of Norwich High School for Girls*, n.d. (Norwich, c. 2000).

A. Crosby, *A History of Thetford* (Chichester, 1986).

S.J. Curtis and M.E.A Boulwood, *An Introductory History of Education since 1800* (London, 1966).

C.R. Forder, *A History of the Paston Grammar School* (North Walsham, 1934).

Girls' Public Day School Trust, *Norwich High School, 1875-1950* (Norwich, 1950).

R. Harries, P. Cattermole and P. Mackintosh, *A History of Norwich School, King Edward VI's Grammar School at Norwich* (Norwich, 1991).

P. Horn, *The Victorian and Edwardian School Child* (Gloucester, 1989).

C.L.S. Linnell, *Gresham's School History and Register, 1555-1954* (Holt, 1955).

A. Morton, *Education and the State from 1833* (Kew, 1997).

H.W. Saunders, *A History of the Norwich Grammar School* (Norwich, 1932).

W.B. Stephens, *Education in Britain, 1750-1914* (Basingstoke, 1998).
Available through the Norfolk Library Service.

W.B. Stephens and R.W. Unwin, *Materials for the Local and Regional Study of Schooling, 1700-1900* (London, 1987).

M. Walker, *King Edward VII School: a Centenary Celebration* (Brighton, 2005).

J. B. Whitehead, *A History of the Great Yarmouth Grammar School, 1551-1951* (Great Yarmouth, 1951). There is a copy with the records of the Great Yarmouth High School, reference D/ED 9/66, 596X7.

13 Useful addresses

Norfolk Record Office

The Archive Centre
Martineau Lane
Norwich NR1 2DQ

Telephone: (01603) 222599
E-mail: norfrec@norfolk.gov.uk
Website: <http://archives.norfolk.gov.uk>
Online catalogue: <http://nrocat.norfolk.gov.uk>

King's Lynn Borough Archives

The Old Gaol House
Saturday Market Place
King's Lynn
PE30 5DQ

Telephone: 01553 774297

Great Yarmouth High School

Salisbury Road
Great Yarmouth
Norfolk
NR30 4LS

Telephone (01493) 842061
E-mail: office@gyhsadmin.co.uk
Website:
<http://www.greatyarmouth.norfolk.sch.uk>

Norfolk Heritage Centre

Norfolk & Norwich Millennium Library
The Forum
Millennium Plain
Norwich NR2 1AW

Telephone: (01603) 774740
E-mail: norfolk.studies.lib@norfolk.gov.uk
Website: <http://www.library.norfolk.gov.uk>

The National Archives

Kew
Richmond
Surrey, TW9 4DU

Telephone (020) 8876 3444
Website:
<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk>

Gresham's School

Cromer Road
Holt
Norfolk
NR25 6EA

Telephone (01263) 714500
E-mail: reception@greshams.com
Website: <http://www.greshams.com>

King Edward VII School

Gaywood Road
King's Lynn
Norfolk
PE30 2QB

Telephone (01553) 773606
E-mail: office@kingedward.norfolk.sch.uk
Website:
<http://www.kingedward.norfolk.sch.uk>

Norwich High School for Girls

95 Newmarket Road
Norwich
Norfolk
NR2 2HU

Telephone (01603 453265
E-mail: admin@nor.gdst.net
Website: <http://www.gdst.net/norwich>

Thetford Grammar School

Bridge Street
Thetford
Norfolk
IP24 3AF

Telephone (01842) 752840
E-mail: tgssec@hotmail.co.uk
Website: <http://www.thetgram.norfolk.sch.uk>

Norwich School

70 The Close
Norwich
NR1 4DD

Telephone (01603) 728430
E-mail: enquiries@norwich-school.org.uk
Website: <http://norwich-school.org.uk>

Paston College

Grammar School Road
North Walsham
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NR28 9JL

Telephone: (01692) 402334
E-mail: enquiries@paston.ac.uk
Website: <http://www.paston.ac.uk>



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